



**U.S. Department of Justice**

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**For Immediate Release:**

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**EVENT: Guilty Plea**

**Defendant: Harris James Barnett**

### **DEARBORN MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO BANK FRAUD**

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A 41-year-old Dearborn man pleaded guilty today to bank fraud, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy announced today. Mr. Murphy was joined in the announcement by Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Harris James Barnett entered the guilty plea in U.S. District Court before Judge Marianne O. Battani.

The fraud stems from a credit card scheme that resulted in a loss to multiple victims of approximately \$90,000. On the count of conviction, Barnett incurred charges on a Chase Bank Visa card, and then submitted payment with a non-sufficient funds check. Barnett then incurred additional charges before the check was returned for non-sufficient funds. By the time the bank became aware that the check was worthless, Barnett had incurred \$11,897 in unpaid charges. Barnett had used a false Social Security number to obtain the credit card.

It is expected that the court will order restitution to this and other victims of approximately \$90,000.

The plea agreement entered into by the parties which, if accepted by the court, would limit Barnett's sentence to 21-27 months. Barnett's sentencing is scheduled for February 16, 2005.

Murphy, the United States Attorney, said, "Credit card fraud harms all of our citizens who work hard to pay their credit card bills. My office will aggressively prosecute those who commit fraud on our banking and credit card system."

The investigation of this case has been conducted by the FBI and the Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General